

NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 60

7 March 1950

1. The following were present:

Dr. Appleton
Mr. Fletcher
Lt. Col. Kiel
Cdr. Howell
Lt. Cdr. Nutt
Lt. Col. Wade

State
State
Army
Navy
Navy
Air Force
CIA (Acting Chairman)

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2. The Acting Chairman stated that there is reason to believe that the copies of the accession list (sent to the IAC Agencies on 17 February 1950) pertaining to the Arctic studies prepared by the Armed Forces Staff College have not reached working-level personnel promptly or, in some instances, may not have reached them at all. He pointed out that, unless copies of this list promptly reach all working-level personnel concerned, they will not have the opportunity to use the material and will be unable to state their opinions regarding its worth. These opinions will form the basis for a decision whether or not to reproduce parts or all of the studies. He therefore requested that the members check within their agencies to see that copies of the list have been properly distributed.

3. It was pointed out that, while there has been some gradual improvement in the quality of contributions being received in D/NIS, the progress of this improvement has been uneven and, in general, has not attained the level which had previously been hoped for by this time. It was stressed that, although the quantity of production is obviously of importance if the NIS Program is to be completed within a reasonable time, quality must not be sacrificed in order to achieve quantity. Much time, effort, and money have been, and will be, expended to produce NIS. If the end product of the NIS Program is not of the requisite substantive quality, there may be undesirable repercussions.

D/NIS is obviously in no position to point out with certainty the reasons for the continuing instances of qualitative deficiency. It appears to D/NIS, however, that the following may well be among these reasons:

- a. Pressure of commitments other than NIS.
- b. Lack of personnel.
- c. Inexperience in intelligence research on the part of some producing personnel.

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d. Inadequacy of substantive review in producing agencies.

e. Failure to exploit not only all pertinent information in agency files and libraries but also pertinent information reasonably available elsewhere in Washington. It may be argued that the pressure of events precludes such exploitation. Experience during the late war, however, demonstrated that this argument is not, in fact, entirely valid. In any event, the inadequacies bound to result if intelligence is not based upon all information reasonably available are obvious.

Members were urged to give serious thought to ways and means of improving the quality of NIS contributions and to take all feasible measures within their respective agencies to effect such improvement.

4. Members were requested to send to D/NIS memoranda of formal approval of the revised list of NIS areas for Standard Instructions.

5. It was requested that preparation of a list of water areas which will be treated in the special NIS on Marine Climate and Oceanography be expedited. This list will be necessary to determine whether or not more than one special NIS will be required. The list will also be needed in connection with the preparation of the NIS production schedule for FY 1951.

6. It was pointed out that preparation of revisions of NIS elements under the maintenance program will involve a considerable amount of work and that it appears, therefore, necessary to incorporate such revisions in the over-all production schedule. In the near future, it will devolve upon the NIS Committee to establish a standard operating procedure for the maintenance program. In the meantime, however, examination should be made to determine whether any NIS elements produced to date require revision, so that such elements, if any, may be included in the production schedule for FY 1951, formulation of which will be undertaken as soon as the revised requirements and priorities of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are known.

7. It was reported that OSI has taken up the task of revising the outline and outline guide for Chapter VII and that AD/OSI has undertaken to keep D/NIS, and consequently the NIS Committee informed of progress.

8. The next meeting was scheduled for 1000 hours, Tuesday, 14 March 1950, at CIA.

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Distribution:

NIS Committee (4)
Mr. Earman (JIG)

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Chief, D/Ma PC, D/NIS
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